

REMARKS

Claim 13 is amended. Claims 3, 13 and 23-43 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 23-30 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 13 and 31-43 are currently under consideration.

Claims 13 and 31-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by applicants admitted prior art. The Examiner is reminded by direction to MPEP § 2131 that anticipation requires each and every element of a claim to be disclosed in a single prior art reference. Claims 13 and 31-36 are allowable over applicant's admitted prior art for at least the reason that the admitted prior art fails to disclose each and every element in any of those claims.

Claim 13 is amended for clarity. Claim 13 recites a susceptor comprising a body having a ring with a radially inner portion at least a majority of which is non-solid space extending through the body from a front face to a back face. A bearing surface is received upon the ring and the centermost portion of the semiconductor substrate does not contact the susceptor. The admitted prior art clearly shows a susceptor having a solid body (compare prior art figure 2 to figures 14-15 which show the claimed invention). Accordingly, the prior art does not teach the recited non-solid space extending through the body of the susceptor. Claim 13 is therefore not anticipated by the admitted prior art.

Dependent claims 31-36 are allowable over applicant's admitted prior art for at least the reason that they depend from non-anticipated base claim 13.

Claims 13, 32, 33 and 37-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohkase (US Patent No. 5,536,918). Ohkase discloses a holding portion 31 which holds a wafer at "a plural number of points, such as for example 3 to 5" (column 11, lines 49-51). The holder has discreet holding protrusions 32 having stoppers 33 positioned as shown in figure 13. Ohkase does not disclose the claim 13 recited ring. Further, Ohkase discloses a wafer contacting the susceptor at a central point (see figure 15) and therefore does not disclose the claim 13 recited bearing surface received upon the ring and the centermost portion of the semiconductor substrate does not contact the susceptor. Claim 13 is therefore not anticipated by Ohkase.

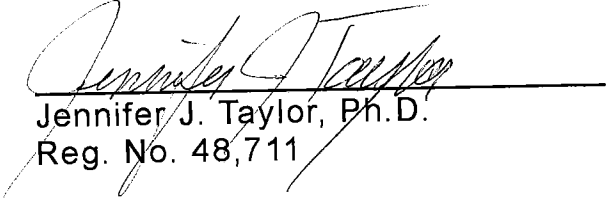
Dependent claims 32, 33 and 37-43 are not anticipated by Ohkase for at least the reason that they depend from non-anticipated base claim 13.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 13 and 31-43 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of claims 13 and 31-43 in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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